

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 11, 12, 14-26, 28, 29 and 32 are pending in the present application. By this amendment, claims 1, 6, 12 and 26 are amended, and claims 2, 4, 8, 10, 13 and 27 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The amendments do not introduce new matter and are fully supported by the original specification. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-4, 5-13, 15-17, 19-21, 26, 27 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Magnusson et al. (WO 99-49690) and further in view of O'Carroll (U.S. 6,714,794) and Djuphammar (U.S. 6,879,580). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 14, 17, 18, 22-25, 28 and 29 are allowed. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 19-21 should also be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 17, which claims 19-21 depend from. The Examiner further indicated that independent claims 1, 6, 12 and 26 would be novel and allowable if amended to include the subject matter of claims 8 and 10. The Examiner reaffirmed this with Applicant's representative, Mr. Kenneth Vu (Reg. No. 46,323), over a telephone conference on November 21, 2005. As such, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 6, 12 and 26 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 8 and 10. The remaining pending claims depend from one of the above independent claims and should be allowable for at least the same reasons.


REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are

earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
Kenneth K. Vu, Reg. No. 46,323
Tel. (858) 658-5106

QUALCOMM Incorporated
5775 Morehouse Drive
San Diego, California 92121
Telephone: (858) 651-4125
Facsimile: (858) 658-2502